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Archaeology on the Road: July 18–25, 2015

Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa

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ARCHAEOLOGY *on the* ROAD

July 18-25, 2015



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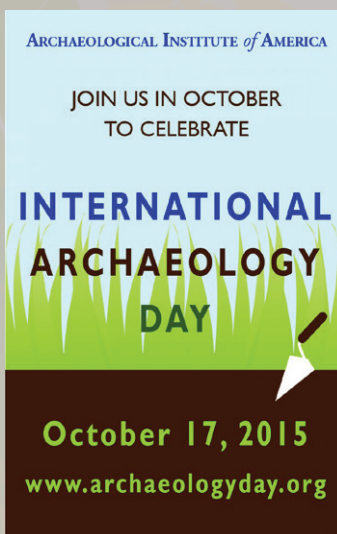
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The War Eagle Monument

War Eagle was a member of the Yankton band of the Dakota living in northwest Iowa prior to Euro-American settlement. In his younger days, he worked for the U.S. government during the War of 1812 and supported ties with the United States over British interests in the area. He later worked on a Mississippi riverboat and for the American Fur Company. Sometime around 1849, War Eagle met and befriended a French-Canadian fur trader named Theophile Bruguier, who also worked for the American Fur Company. As the story goes, they talked of settling in a place where two large rivers met and War Eagle brought him to the confluence of the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. Eventually, Bruguier married two of War Eagles daughters, Dawn and Blazing Star, and established a presence in the area now known as River Side Park in western Sioux City. This formed the beginnings of Sioux

City with the peaceful coexistence of the Dakota and Americans. War Eagle likely died from exposure during the winter of 1851, and was buried on the loess hilltops near where his statue now stands. A massive landslide in 1988 required the temporary removal of the statue and an archaeological survey prior to replacement. Site 13WD69 was recorded as the location of several pioneer era burials at the location of the original monument. Park improvements were made and the monument was replaced. War Eagle was not a war chief but rather elected by his people as a social leader and is remembered and admired as a friend to those early American settlers.

The monument along the loess bluffs above the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers was a product of a U.S. Bicentennial project and depicts War Eagle wearing a long eagle feathered head dress and holding a calumet, symbolizing his respected leadership and support for peaceful relations between Native Americans and Americans.

You can visit the monument today by driving up to the War Eagle Park which contains a beautiful vista of the confluence of these two mighty rivers.



Portrait of War Eagle



*War Eagle
Monument*



1 SIOUX CITY *to* STORM LAKE

The Simonsen Site

Perhaps you have heard of the Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in Alberta or the Olsen-Chubbuck bison kill site in Colorado, but did you know that large scale bison drives also took place in Iowa? One of the oldest bison kill sites in the state was found along the banks of the Little Sioux River in Cherokee County, near the town of Quimby. The Simonsen Site (13CK61) represents a large-scale bison kill similar to better known kill sites from farther west. Excavations at the site began in the late 1950s under the direction of W.D. Frankforter of the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, State Archaeologist Reynold Ruppé, and George Agogino of the State University of South Dakota. During three years of excavations eight strata were identified that included three cultural layers separated by periods of frequent flooding.

The cultural strata included a bed of bison bone 25 feet wide and 75 feet long buried 14 feet below the ground surface. Several hearths, projectile points, and other stone tools used for butchering and processing hides were found along with the bone. The large animal bones found at the site were identified as *Bison bison occidentalis*, an ancient form of giant bison that



Bison bones uncovered with drawing grid on top.

became extinct about 5,000 years ago. A large dog mandible was also found, which suggests that these people may have had dogs to help with the hunting.

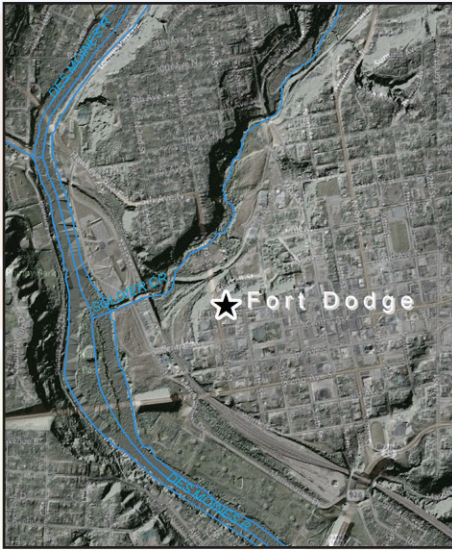
The Simonsen Site continues to inform archaeological research today. Corrected radiocarbon dates indicate that the site was occupied 8,000 years ago, during the Middle Archaic period. This was a time of drought and harsh conditions on the Plains, and early theories in Great Plains archaeology assumed that the region was largely abandoned. Recent research, however, revisiting data from the Simonsen Site and other early sites is changing the way archaeologists look at this time period. The research indicates that large herds of bison inhabited the region, and early Plains hunters were capable of obtaining an ample supply of meat.

If you are in the town of Cherokee, stop in at the Sanford Museum and see some of the artifacts from this and other archaeological sites in the area.



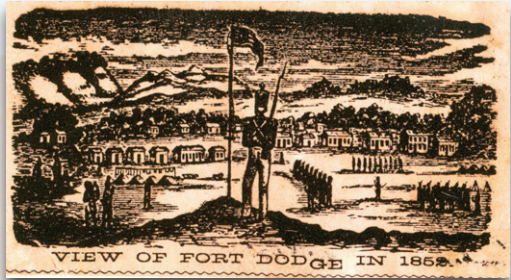
Projectile points recovered from site.

Fort Dodge Military Post—Not a Trace



Fort Dodge location, Webster County

All Indians were supposed to be gone from Iowa by 1848, but to the dismay of many American settlers, the Meskwaki, Dakota, Sauk, and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) continued to live in and visit Iowa. After Fort Des Moines was abandoned in 1846 and Fort Atkinson in 1849, there was no military presence in Iowa. To better control northern Iowa during settlement, the U.S. Army established a small outpost along the Des Moines River named Fort Dodge in 1850. Never stockaded, the fort consisted of a row of buildings along the bluff overlooking Soldier Creek. From here soldiers would launch mounted patrols of the interior, and the Dakota would visit for trade, even after they ceded all lands in Iowa in an 1851 treaty. After abandonment in 1853, William Williams purchased the fort and made it the core of a newly planned community.

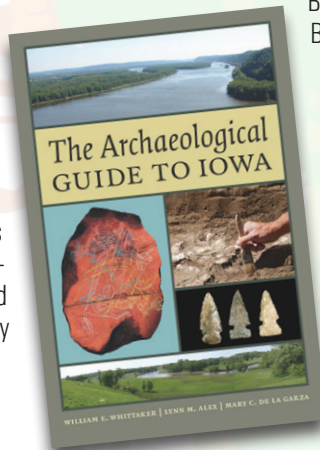


View of the Fort Dodge parade grounds, probably from an original 1852 William Williams sketch.

In 2009, archaeologists from the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) in cooperation with local historians began a serious effort to find remains of the fort with ground-penetrating radar, auger testing, and test unit excavation. Disappointingly, none of these efforts revealed any evidence of the fort; the landscape appeared to have been too greatly modified in the past 150 years.

The Fort Museum in Fort Dodge is one of the most interesting destinations in Iowa. It contains an original cabin moved there from the fort, as well as an amazing array of artifacts from prehistoric and historic periods. The museum is located on Museum Road, just off Kenyon Road (a.k.a.

Business U.S. 169 and Business U.S. 20).



*The information presented on Fort Dodge archaeology is excerpted from **The Archaeological Guide to Iowa** (2015) available from The University of Iowa Press.*
uiowapress.org



FORT DODGE *to* ELDORA

Pine Lake State Park

Pine Lake State Park is just north and east of Eldora, your destination for Day 3 of the ride, off of County Road S56. The park is in Hardin County, which has over 400 documented archaeological sites that have taught us a great deal about many past cultures, spanning the last 10,000 years, from Paleoindians to the latest homesteaders. Pine Lake State Park was developed around several prehistoric mounds that were first recorded by Charles Keyes in 1925. Two conical mounds are located near the golf course and another large group of conical mounds are located in the park's picnic area. These sites represent 2 of 23 mound sites documented in Hardin County. They were

later recorded and entered in the Iowa Site File by John and Barbara Feeley, certified avocational archaeologists of the Iowa Archeological Society. Constructed mounds are found throughout Iowa in a variety of forms (e.g. conical, linear, and effigy mounds) and their protection is of the utmost importance since they were used for mortuary practices and are sacred sites to American Indian communities past and present. In 2004, as part of efforts to evaluate, protect, and make the public aware of cultural resources in the Iowa River Greenbelt, the OSA developed educational programs and plans to further document and protect sites in and around Pine Lake State Park.

Protection of Burial Sites and Ancient Human Remains in Iowa

Since mounds are burial sites, they are offered extra protection under the Code of Iowa. The law (Chapter 263B) was passed in 1976 so that all ancient human remains and burials (over 150 years old) in Iowa would be properly protected and respectfully treated, regardless of the ancestry of individuals. The law also made the OSA statutorily responsible for this task. If you want to know more about bioarchaeology and the protection of ancient human remains in Iowa, *ask a member of Team Archaeology!*

Hartman Reserve Nature Center

Located between Cedar Falls and Waterloo, and just 2 miles east of the University of Northern Iowa campus, is the Hartman Reserve Nature Center. In 1938, the local YMCA along with John C. Hartman purchased 56 acres of forested land, designated as Camp Hartman Reserve, to use for camping and other outdoor programs. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board purchased the property and officially created the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in 1976. The current 340-acre park consists of heavy woods, restored prairies, extensive floodplain, and valley bluffs on the south side of the Cedar River. From 2008 until 2012, archaeological investigations along the bluff line uncovered prehistoric ceramics, lithic material, evidence of fire pits, and structural post molds. Recorded as site 13BH164, the site is interpreted as a seasonal camp and activities here may have included nut boiling or maple syrup processing. This site and the Hartman Archaeology Research Program continues to play a pivotal

role in the Nature Center's educational opportunities to inform visitors, students, and researchers about northeastern Iowa's prehistoric past.

Side-notched arrow point recovered from the Black Medicine site (13BH164). Point is 17 mm long, 9 mm wide, and has a mass of 0.2 g.



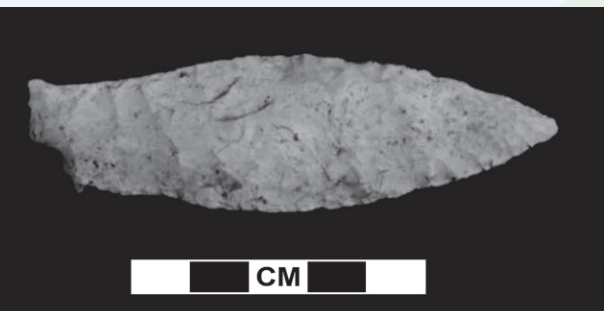
Lane Farm Cord Impressed vessel, recovered from excavations at Hartman Reserve.





CEDAR FALLS *to* HIAWATHA

An Intact Early Archaic Find in Benton County?



The specimen is heat-treated Blanding chert that turns a luminous pink color with heating. The point is nearly 3.5 inches in length, one inch in maximum width, and a mere $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in thickness! Based on its similarity to tools from well-dated contexts in other parts of Iowa, the 13BE109 artifact is likely 9,000 years old or more. It is an elegant tool, both well designed and skillfully crafted. Nearly intact with just a portion of the base partially detached, it may have been broken when used in hunting.

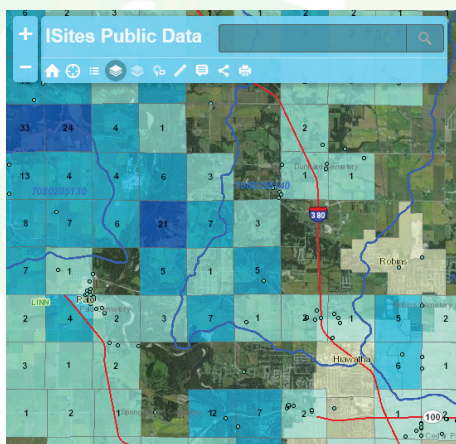
Although highly prized by collectors, items like these are of critical research value in archaeology as they encode data about time and technology—and if context is carefully recorded—even about social relationships and hunting practices.

Preserved beneath a cultivated field in the uplands immediately adjacent to the RAGBRAI route at the turn from the eastward road from Vinton (E24) south toward Shellsburg (W26) is archaeological site 13BE109. Investigation of this location was spurred by a road improvement project. The archaeologist found a variety of stone tools and related manufacturing debris at this location, including the projectile point illustrated here.

Explore Iowa Archaeology Online Through I-Sites Public

The Office of the State Archaeologist maintains a master inventory of all the recorded archaeological sites in the state. The *I-Sites* Public portal allows you to explore publicly available site location information using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) applications. GIS allows you to study map layers depicting elevations, nearby waterways, vegetation, roads and other geographic features. You can even look back in time and see how the landscape has changed by examining maps from the 1930s, the 50s or other decades.

Check it out at archaeology.uiowa.edu/i-sites and click on I-Sites Public Access.



Hubbard Park, What Lies Below

Just a few miles from your stop in Coralville is Hubbard Park. Take a quick look at the park as you ride across the Iowa River along W. Iowa Avenue early on your final day of the route.

Before it Was a Park

The space served as a residential neighborhood from 1839 to 1926. Afterward, the University leveled the block and the area became the Women's Athletic Field. Designated a park in 1991, its namesake is Philip G. Hubbard, the University of Iowa's first African-American professor and later university vice president.

Hubbard Park started out as one of the city's earliest residential areas. After the Great Flood of 1851, the neighborhood re-emerged in the 1860s with a mix of workers' cottages, larger houses, and a corner grocery store. This was a racially, ethnically, and economically mixed working-class neighborhood. Many of the houses were rental units; others were single-family homes. Some families, like the Henyons, were prosperous; Bradford Henyon was a shingle maker from New York. Others were not so fortunate and lived in poor conditions. Many residents were immigrants, like the Rinellas, a Sicilian family who ran a corner grocery store that was the social center of the neighborhood in the early 1900s.

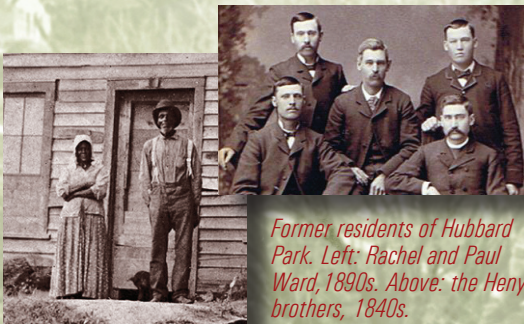


Images from 2014 archaeological excavations.

The Archaeology

To protect their neighborhood from flooding, residents used soil to raise the block's elevation, burying and preserving older occupations. Excavations in 2014 by the OSA found remains of the old neighborhood, including foundations, a root cellar, and privy outhouses. American Indian artifacts demonstrate that people lived here for thousands of years.

Artifacts from the 19th and early 20th centuries reveal the neighborhood's changing demographics, allowing us to enrich the historical narrative of Iowa City. Due to its historic and archaeological importance, this neighborhood is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Former residents of Hubbard Park. Left: Rachel and Paul Ward, 1890s. Above: the Henyon brothers, 1840s.

Credit Island and the Mississippi River

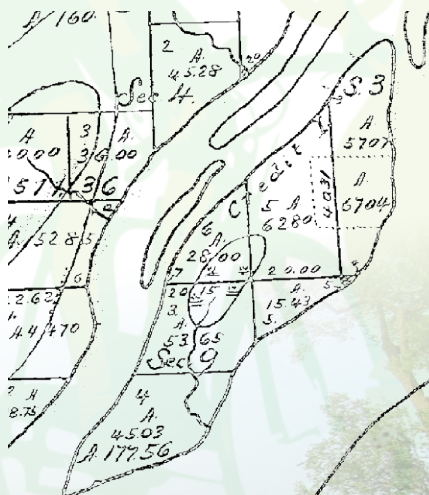
Just beyond the City of Davenport, your dipping point of the ride, lies Credit Island. Credit Island is a geologic feature in the Mississippi River resulting from the river's mighty erosional and depositional forces. Shortly after the waning of the last ice age, when the Mississippi River was a series of braided channels dominated by sands and gravels, its character began to change. As flow rates decreased and sediments changed, islands became composed of thick sand deposits covered with thick deposits of fine-grained flood sediments creating what we see today. Credit Island is one of the larger islands in this stretch of the Mississippi, containing a bedrock base and geomorphic features such as sloughs and abandoned channels with ridge and swale topography.

The island appears to have been a stable landform since the middle Holocene, or for roughly the past 7,800 years. Early collectors found hundreds of artifacts as well as habitation sites. Many of these recovered artifacts were described as "beautifully ornamented." Archaeological investigations on the island documented Middle- and Late Archaic-aged sites as well as Woodland period occupations.

Credit Island gained its name during the early 1800s from Euro-American traders who set up shop and gave the Native Americans "credit" for food and imported goods. Credit Island was first documented by name only two years after the earliest trading post was established in 1814. The island was found to be an excellent place for Native Americans and Euro-Americans alike to stop for supplies, repairs, or rest prior to continuing their travel on the Mississippi. Credit Island has the notoriety of also being the location of a battle during the War of 1812.



This island was in private hands until the city of Davenport purchased it in 1918 for use as a city park. The island supported a variety of recreational activities including a golf course and a popular swimming beach. The City of Davenport is currently revising the master plan for the future improvement for the island.



You Can Help Preserve Our Archaeological Heritage!

The **Iowa Archeological Society** is planning to institute a **Site Stewardship Program**. Site stewards would play an important role in educating the public about the fragile nature of archaeological sites and help prevent damage to archeological resources.

Site Stewards may participate in a variety of activities that include recording archaeological sites, documenting environmental and human damage to sites, and actively assisting with long-term preservation programs. Most importantly, stewards act as informal liaisons between the public and the archaeological community. Simply knowing someone who is a site steward may affect the way that other people think about and treat archaeological materials. A site steward can offer a local perspective on resource management within communities.

Can you see yourself helping to record archaeological sites or partnering with someone to protect one or more archaeological sites?

Join the Iowa Archeological Society and learn more.

[archaeology.uiowa.edu/
iowa-archeological-society](http://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archeological-society)

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LOOK FOR US ON THE ROAD!

Jerseys of Team Archaeology



Booklet designed by Angela R. Collins with content contributions by Mark Anderson, John Doershuk, Alan Hawkins, Chérie Haury-Artz, Lara Noldner, and Elizabeth Reetz, all of the Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa.